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REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in the present Application. No claims have been canceled, claims 1-8, 10-18, 29, and 48-50 have been amended, and claims 51-113 have been added, leaving Claims 1-113 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 30-50. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended claims 48-49 to include limitation(s) as set forth in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. In particular,

Claim 48 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19 and objected-to claims 13 and 26; and

Claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19 and objected-to claims 23 and 26.

Claim 31 has also been amended, for consistency with claim 2, to place the claim into proper form.

Claim 50 has also been amended for clarity, that is, to correct the antecedent basis in the preamble.

Claim Objections

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 2-8, 11-18 and 23-28 would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have accordingly amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2.

In addition, claims 2-8 and 10-18 have been amended for clarity, primarily to provide proper antecedent basis in the preamble and to provide proper dependency. .

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Applicants have also amended claims 17 (and 46) for clarity, that is, to recite at least one crosslinking monomer having vinyl unsaturation, to clarify the nature of the monomer. Support for this limitation is found throughout the specification, but particularly at page 8 beginning at line 1. It is believed that claims 2-28, which depend from claim 1, are now allowable.

New independent claim 51 incorporates the limitations of former claim 1, claim 19, and objected-to claim 10, together with intervening claim 9. Claims 52-65, which depend therefrom, and which have antecedent basis in claims 2-28, are now allowable.

New independent claim 66 incorporates the limitations of claim 1, claim 19, and objected-to claim 23, and is thus now allowable. Claims 67-79, which depend therefrom, and which have antecedent basis in claims 2-28, are now allowable.

New independent claim 80 incorporates the limitations of claim 1, claim 19, and objected-to claim 26, and is thus now allowable. Claims 81-90, which depend therefrom, and which have antecedent basis in claims 2-28, are now allowable.

New independent claim 91 incorporates the limitations of claim 1, claim 19, and objected-to claim 13, and is thus now allowable. Claims 92-101, which depend therefrom, and which have antecedent basis in claims 2-28, are now allowable.

New independent claim 102 incorporates the limitations of claim 1, claim 19, and objected-to claims 13, 23, and 26, and is thus now allowable. Claims 103-113, which depend therefrom, and which have antecedent basis in claims 2-28, are now allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 9, 10, 19-22, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Fouts, Jr. et al (US 4545926). It is believed that the amendment to claim 1 as described above renders the rejection of claims 1, 9, 10, and 19-22 moot.

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In addition, claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19 and objected-to claims 13 and 23.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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